As per the Sugarcane Control order issued under the Essential Commodities Act mills are obliged to pay the Statutory Minimum Price of sugarcane to growers and powers to enforce such payments have been delegated by the Central Government to State Governments. However, in the case of State Advised Prices of sugarcane which are substantially higher than the statutory minimum price, enforcement is not legally possible under the sugarcane control order. In such cases, State Governments concerned have to use their good offices to see that growers are paid their dues at the higher rates.

In order to prevent the accumulation of arrears of cane dues of farmers which can lead to unfortunate law and order situations, State Governments have been advised to follow a more reasonable pricing policy and allow mills to share their profits with growers as per the Bhargava formula.

[*69. *Transferred to 1st December*, 1992]

Amendment of Urban Land Ceiling Act

*70. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently announced that there would be an amendment in the Urban Land Ceiling Act to encourage building activities;

(b) if so, what are the proposals in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is a demand from farmers and Cooperative Housing Societies to scrap the Urban Land Ceiling Act; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) On the basis of discussions with the State Governments and experts and taking into consideration representations made by various interest groups proposals for amendment to the Urban Land Ceiling Act have been formulated. No final decision on these proposals has been taken by the Government.

Requirement of Pig Iron for Foundry Units in West Bengal

*71. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY :
SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that several cast iron foundry units in West Bengal are on the verge of closure and others are turning sick following the scarcity of pig iron, the basic raw material for the industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the annual requirement of pig iron for West Bengal foundries and the allocation made for them; and

(d) what remedial measures have been taken so far by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) and (b) About 10% of the cast iron foundry units in West Bengal are reported to be closed for various reasons such as financial problems, inadequate power supply and lack of orders. Representations have been received regarding shortage of pig iron being faced by some units. This is mainly due to the poor lifting of material against offers made to the West Bengal Small Industries Corporation (WBSIC) by main producers.

(c) Most of the foundry units in West Bengal are in the small scale sector. The requirement of pig iron for small scale industries including foundry units in West Bengal as indicated by Director of Industries, West Bengal, is 1,00,000 tonnes for the year 1992-93. The requirement of pig iron of small scale industries is being met on priority basis. The total allocation of pig iron made by the Development Commissioner for Iron & Steel (DCI&S) for small scale units of West Bengal including foundry units during the year 1992-93 is 75,000 tonnes (33,500 tonnes to the WBSIC